

Text Complexity: Qualitative Measures Rubric

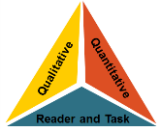
INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Text Title _____

Text Author _____

QUALITATIVE	Very Complex ←			Slightly Complex
PURPOSE	<p>○ Purpose: Subtle, implied, difficult to determine; intricate, theoretical elements</p>	<p>○ Purpose: Implied, but fairly easy to infer; more theoretical than concrete</p>	<p>○ Purpose: Implied, but easy to identify based upon context or source</p>	<p>○ Purpose: Explicitly stated; clear, concrete with a narrow focus</p>
TEXT STRUCTURE	<p>○ Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between an extensive range of ideas or events are deep, intricate and often implicit or subtle; organization of the text is intricate or specialized for a particular discipline</p> <p>○ Text Features: If used, are essential in understanding content</p> <p>○ Use of Graphics: If used, extensive, intricate, essential integrated graphics, tables, charts, etc., necessary to make meaning of text; also may provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text</p>	<p>○ Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between an expanded range ideas, processes or events are deeper and often implicit or subtle; organization may contain multiple pathways and may exhibit traits common to a specific discipline</p> <p>○ Text Features: If used, greatly enhance the reader's understanding of content</p> <p>○ Use of Graphics: If used, essential integrated graphics, tables, charts, etc.; may occasionally be essential to understanding the text</p>	<p>○ Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between some ideas or events are implicit or subtle; organization is evident and generally sequential</p> <p>○ Text Features: If used, enhance the reader's understanding of content</p> <p>○ Use of Graphics: If used, graphics mostly supplementary to understanding of the text, such as indexes, glossaries; graphs, pictures, tables, and charts directly support the text</p>	<p>○ Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between ideas, processes or events are explicit and clear; organization of text is clear or chronological or easy to predict</p> <p>○ Text Features: If used, help the reader navigate and understand content but are not essential</p> <p>○ Use of Graphics: If used, simple graphics, unnecessary to understanding the text but directly support and assist in interpreting the written text</p>
LANGUAGE FEATURES	<p>○ Conventionality: Dense and complex; contains abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language</p> <p>○ Vocabulary: Generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic language; may be ambiguous or purposefully misleading</p> <p>○ Sentence Structure: Mainly complex sentences often containing multiple concepts</p>	<p>○ Conventionality: Complex; contains some abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language</p> <p>○ Vocabulary: Somewhat complex language that is sometimes unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic</p> <p>○ Sentence Structure: Many complex sentences with several subordinate phrases or clauses and transition words</p>	<p>○ Conventionality: Largely explicit and easy to understand with some occasions for more complex meaning</p> <p>○ Vocabulary: Mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational; rarely unfamiliar or overly academic</p> <p>○ Sentence Structure: Simple and compound sentences, with some more complex constructions</p>	<p>○ Conventionality: Explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand</p> <p>○ Vocabulary: Contemporary, familiar, conversational language</p> <p>○ Sentence Structure: Mainly simple sentences</p>
KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS	<p>○ Subject Matter Knowledge: Extensive, perhaps specialized or even theoretical discipline-specific content knowledge; range of challenging abstract and theoretical concepts</p> <p>○ Intertextuality: Many references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.</p>	<p>○ Subject Matter Knowledge: Moderate levels of discipline-specific content knowledge; some theoretical knowledge may enhance understanding; range of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts</p> <p>○ Intertextuality: Some references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.</p>	<p>○ Subject Matter Knowledge: Everyday practical knowledge and some discipline-specific content knowledge; both simple and more complicated, abstract ideas</p> <p>○ Intertextuality: A few references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.</p>	<p>○ Subject Matter Knowledge: Everyday, practical knowledge; simple, concrete ideas</p> <p>○ Intertextuality: No references or allusions to other texts, or outside ideas, theories, etc.</p>

Questions to Consider in Planning for Instructional Scaffolding of Informational Text:



Purpose:

- Would spending time helping students to establish a purpose for reading this text be appropriate?
- Will students know in advance what they are expected to do with the information they gain from reading this text?

Text Structure:

- Would graphic organizers or other aids be appropriate in making the structure of the text visible to students?
- Would a partial outline or some other text-based aid be appropriate in deciphering the structure of the text?
- Would previewing and discussing the graphics included with the text prior to reading be appropriate?

Language Features:

- Would a review of figurative, abstract, or ironic language and a modeling of how that type of language might be interpreted be appropriate?
- Would glossing certain vocabulary (particularly multiple meaning words that extend across other subject matter content areas, i.e. Tier 2 words) prior to reading be appropriate?

Knowledge Demands:

- What background knowledge needs to be introduced (or re-introduced) to facilitate reading success that will not supplant the actual information gained from the reading experience?
- What explicit references and/or allusions to other texts might require additional resources/opportunities for students to explore?

General:

- In what ways might collaborative groupings of students during the reading process be appropriate?